

The Gospel preached

Revelation 12:11 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony and **they loved not their lives unto death.***

Our infantile understanding of Christianity must grow up

- Self-centred Gospel: seeker sensitive, consumer, spectator sport
- Life begins where we are willing to die to ourselves!

They overcame him by ... not loving their lives unto death!

• From the last week's

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb

- **The Gospel understood**

They overcame him by ... the word of their testimony

- **The Gospel applied**

• This week

They overcame him by ... not loving their lives unto death

- **The Gospel preached**

Fishers of men

Disciple - Christian - fisher of men. The essence of all discipleship is that Jesus is making us into fishers of men!

Matthew 4:18-20 *18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*

A willingness to pay any price necessary for the Gospel to go out

Romans 12:1-2 *1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 8:31-39 *31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "**For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.**" 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Gospel cost Jesus His life, and we should be willing to count our lives expendable for His Gospel to go out. In this the Gospel Age, we have a unique opportunity to preach the Gospel, before the end comes. Thereafter, there will be no more opportunity to tell others (individuals and nations) about Jesus. What are we spending our lives on? Things that will have an eternal benefit, or just temporary pleasure?

SCALE: Inconvenience ... Laying my life down. Indicative of where my heart is!

This is our external inheritance!

1 Peter 1:3-9 3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to **an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,** 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1 Corinthians 3:1-15 1 *But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? 5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 **So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.** 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 **If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.** 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

I am not ashamed of the Gospel

Romans 1:16-17 16 *For **I am not ashamed of the gospel,** for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Are we living our lives like we are ashamed of the Gospel?

- Not bothered to truly understand the Gospel
- Not interested in applying it to our lives, and living in God's grace
- Not concerned with being a witness of the Gospel

By all means possible

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. **Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!** 17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. 19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, **that I might win more of them.** 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order **to win Jews.** To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might **win those under the law.** 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) **that I might win those outside the law.** 22 To the weak I became weak, **that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.** 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Some important insights from this passage

- Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel. **Preaching the Gospel needs to matter to me!**
 - Paul had a strategy for all the different kinds of people he encounter! **I need a strategy!**
 - Winning people for Jesus was Paul's goal, like Jesus, who came to seek and save the lost. **My goal should be to see people saved!**

My priestly responsibility to share the Gospel

Romans 15:13-21 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. 14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. 15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in **the priestly service of the gospel of God,** so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; 20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand".

Every one of us has a priestly responsibility to share the Gospel!

Ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 *17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**. 20 Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us**. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

There is a lot of encouragement from this passage

- We, who are born again, have been given the ministry of reconciliation
- We have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation - the Gospel
- We are ambassadors for Christ
 - Character first - We are living examples of what we preach
 - We earn the right to speak by being an example of the Gospel
 - We pray for opportunities
 - We speak with boldness, courage and love
 - We use the testimony of our lives to explain the Gospel
- God makes His appeal through us to the unsaved. What an amazing privilege.

Romans 10:13-17 *13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And **how can they hear without someone preaching to them?** 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!**" 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

Practically

- We need to be motivated by love
 - For God
 - For His Gospel
 - For the lost
- We need to understand that we are Holy Spirit empowered to be witnesses! Acts 1:8
- Matthew 10:8 *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.* There's no place we grow in God's grace as much as when we are giving out!
- We want to change from
 - A consumer to a contributor.
 - A spectator to a participator
- Evangelism is a lifestyle and not a project. Naturally supernatural.
- Don't underestimate the power of prayer

- We start in prayer
- We have a prayer *hit list*
- Each one of have fields of influence or fishing pools
 - In the church
 - Through the church
 - Beyond the church